

Message Text

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SUBJ: LABOR AWAITING NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

SUMMARY: THE MAY DAY WEEKEND PASSED QUIETLY IN LIMA AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO SIGNIFICANT STRIKES, ALTHOUGH SOME MINERS APPARENTLY CONTINUE THEIR HUNGER STRIKES. SUTEP, THE NATIONAL UNION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS UNDER ULTRA-LEFT LEADERSHIP, HAS CALLED FOR A GENERAL TEACHERS' STRIKE OF INDEFINITE DURATION MAY 8. MODERATE LABOR LEADERS FEAR THAT NEW GOP AUSTERITY MEASURES COULD PROVOKE SERIOUS POPULAR RESENTMENT AND DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH THEY WOULD FIND DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE. HOWEVER, UNIONISTS ALSO FEAR MASSIVE DISORDERS COULD THREATEN THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. PERUVIAN LABOR LEADER JULIO CRUZADO HAS CALLED FOR NATIONAL UNIFIED LABOR COUNCIL TO DEFEND WORKERS' VIEWS IN ECONOMIC MATTERS WHILE REDUCING THE LIKELIHOOD OF NATIONAL STRIKES AND LABOR DISORDERS THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST LABOR CONFEDERATION, CGTP, HELD A MEETING THE EVENING OF APRIL 28. AFTER A SLOW START, PERHAPS 5 TO 6,000 DEMONSTRATORS FINALLY ASSEMBLED IN THE DOS DE MAYO PLAZA IN FRONT OF CGTP HEADQUARTERS. CGTP LEADERS ATTACKED US AND IMF "IMPERIALISM" AND SUPPORTED MINERS' HUNGER STRIKES.

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AN ULTRA-LEFT GROUP (CUL) ALSO CALLED FOR AN APRIL 28 MEETING IN THE PLAZA SAN MARTIN A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE CGTP. CUL'S LABOR DAY OBSERVANCE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A TOTAL FAILURE. ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE SHOWED UP AND THE MEETING BROKE UP EARLY. REPORTEDLY THE CGTP MEETING WAS INTERRUPTED BRIEFLY BY ELEMENTS FROM THE CUL WHO HARASSED CGTP SPEAKERS AND ENGAGED IN A FEW FIGHTS WITH THE MOSCOW-LINE GROUP. NO

SERIOUS INCIDENTS OR INJURIES WERE REPORTED. THE APRA-RELATED CONFEDERATION CTP HELD A SMALL AND SEDATE CEREMONY (AT THE LIMA CEMETERY MAY 1) TO HONOR CTP'S LABOR MARTYRS.

2. WITH ALL MAJOR MINES WORKING, THE ONLY "PROGRAMMED" LABOR PROBLEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS SUTEP'S CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE MAY 8. ALTHOUGH THE TEACHERS' UNION SUTEP CLAIMS TO REPRESENT ALL OF THE 180,000 PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN PERU, THE EXTENT OF ITS REAL INFLUENCE IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE. SUTEP CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE SALARY RAISES OF 100 PERCENT FOR TEACHERS, ALONG WITH THE REHIRING OF SOME SUTEP TEACHERS FIRED LAST YEAR. ANNOUNCING THE STRIKE BEFORE ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SUTEP CLAIMS THE STRIKE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL ITS DEMANDS ARE MET. SOME LABOR OBSERVERS DOUBT THAT SUTEP WILL GAIN MUCH SUPPORT. BUT THE PROTEST MIGHT GAIN MOMENTUM IN THE AFTERMATH OF ANTICIPATED GOP ANNOUNCEMENTS CUTTING SUBSIDIES ON MILK AND BREAD, RAISING GASOLINE PRICES AND FURTHER DEVALUING THE SOL.

3. SEVERE PROBLEMS FACE ALL TRADE UNION LEADERS AWAITING THE NEW GOP ECONOMIC MEASURES. THE MODERATE TRADE UNIONISTS REALIZE THE GRAVITY (AND SOME OF THE HOPELESSNESS) OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND THE APRA-RELATED CTP SUPPORTS THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT AS THE BEST GUARANTEE OF ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, MODERATE UNION LEADERS FEAR THAT THEIR FAILURE TO PROTEST (ESPECIALLY IF ANOTHER LABOR GROUP CALLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND A GENERAL STRIKE) COULD COST THEM

PRESTIGE AND PERHAPS MEMBERSHIP.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, CTP SECY GEN JULIO CRUZADO HAS CALLED FOR A NATIONAL LABOR COUNCIL MADE UP OF THE FOUR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS, I.E., CTP, CGTP, THE EX-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT CNT AND THE GOP-CREATED CTRP. THIS COUNCIL WOULD EXPRESS ORGANIZED LABOR'S POINT OF VIEW TO THE GOP AND WOULD REMAIN IN OPERATION UNTIL 1980 (OR UNTIL A GENERAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION). THE MAJOR CONFEDERATIONS, BY TAKING A UNIFIED STAND, WOULD PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM CHARGES OF SELLING OUT AND THEORETICALLY WOULD HAVE A LARGER VOICE IN GOP ECONOMIC DECISIONS.

5. THERE SEEMS TO BE A POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF THE CGTP LEADERSHIP MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN CRUZADO'S PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, THE CGTP FACES SEVERE CRITICISM FROM "ULTRA-LEFT" LABOR AND POLITICAL GROUPS. A LONG-SIMMERING INTERNAL CGTP QUARREL OVER IDEOLOGY, TACTICS AND PERSONAL POWER BOILED OVER AGAIN DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL. THE CGTP EXPELLED FOUR IMPORTANT LABOR LEADERS FROM THE CONFEDERATION EARLY

IN THE MONTH OF APRIL. ON APRIL 20, CGTP SUPPORTERS ATTACKED THESE FORMER MEMBERS WHO WERE MEETING WITH OTHER "ULTRA-LEFTISTS" IN A TELEPHONE WORKERS' MEETING HALL. THE ATTACK DESTROYED PROPERTY AND PUT THE LOCAL UNION'S LEADER IN THE HOSPITAL.

6. COMMENT: THE DILEMMA OF MODERATE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISTS FEARFUL OF BEING ACCUSED OF LACK OF MILITANCY FOR FAILURE TO PROTEST THE ANTICIPATED HARSHER ECONOMIC MEASURES MAY BE SHARED BY THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP GROUP, MANY OF WHOM ARE CANDIDATES IN THE COMMUNITY PARTY (PCP) LIST FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, UNLESS SOME ARRANGEMENT AMONG THE FOUR LARGER LABOR CONFEDERATIONS CAN BE WORKED OUT, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE GOP'S PUBLICATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW AUSTERITY MEASURES WILL PRODUCE A NEW ROUND OF LABOR UNREST, INCLUDING AT LEAST STRONG VERBAL PROTESTS ON THE PART OF THE MODERATE UNIONS.

DECONTROL DEC 1980. PREEG

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